
Title: A Forgotten Art

Author: Therin Telamon

If you are looking for
ancient secrets about
achieving perfection as a
mage or warrior quicker
than by training it day
by day, you have opened
the wrong tome.
This book is about an art

long forgotten...
story-telling.
Sure, sneer at this, laugh
all you want.
But ask yourself... on the
day when you take your
last breath, the day your
soul leaves your mortal

body, whether it's in your
home, at an old age, or
rather soon, facing some
of the dangers of our
land... look back and see
what you will be
remembered for... and
what you have left behind

?
Do not understand me
wrong. I do believe that
the greatest gifts you
can leave to others is
being a great person,
helping others, making
their lives just a bit
easier.
In my opinion, if you
make only one person
breathe easier for only
just one moment, you
have achieved more than
the warrior or trader
who has collected a
castle full of golds and
diamonds.
And there are so many
people in our world, even

today, who do just that...
making a great effort to
help others, teach the
younglings, handing a
beggar some gold, or
helping out a beaten and
robbed warrior some
armour or a new weapon.

However, another way to
be remembered, or to
help many others in the
future, is by telling
stories.

Not fairy-tales, not lies.
The story of yourself,
the story of someone
you have met, someone
whom you have learned
from, or who has
impressed you.

Or write down
instructions on how to
achieve a certain goal.
A guide for strangers,
new visitors to our world
to find their way around.
Advice for someone who
is trying to improve his
skills or become perfect
at his craft.

You might feel amused,
but write down a song,
or a poem about
something you have
experienced.

Leave something for your
heirs, for everyone who
will come after you.

Not only will you be able
to share your knowledge,
your experiences. but also,
you will be remembered.

I remember reading books
about crafting bows,
about using them... ancient
guides on how to master
the paladin-spells, books
on gathering armour that
would best protect you
against demons, dragons,
titans and all the other
monsters you may
encounter in Sosaria.

There are many ways of
leaving your knowledge
behind... there are several

libraries in our world,
apart from the royal
library, the Lycaeum.
There is a place that
people often gossip about,
called "uo stratics" (I
will leave it to you to
find out how to get
there... it takes a
mysterious ancient item
called a "browser"... I
heard you can obtain
those when slaying ancient
liches, but I think that is
only a rumour).
There is a newspaper, led
by a man called Tony
Dobs, and supported by
reporters such as Lady
Lava.

Maybe you have written
something before, maybe
you have never tried.
Maybe you have never
considered writing
anything.
But consider this... have
you noticed how quickly
the stories about the
warrior who slew several
Balrons at once fade
away ? How quickly people
forget the trader who
had amassed incredible
fortunes ?
About the poor being
whose only entertainment
is measuring his fighting
skills with others, while
these skills could be put
to much better use by
ridding our world of
murderers and threatening
demons ?
A book, if sealed with
red leaves and kept by a
responsible person at a
public library, can last
until our world eventually
ends.
And there will always be
some who hunger for
knowledge, who need
advice, just like there
will always will be those
weak-minded who only
care about wielding their

poisoned daggers, while missing the rich lore, the amazing stories that have happened in our long past, some of which have been written down.

Bards... how many of them I have seen. Most of them only use the bardic skills to entice monsters, weaken them and provoke them onto each other.

Have you ever heard of Iolo ? Not only will he be always remembered for being a representative of the virtues, but also because he has given us many memorable songs, together with his late wife Gwenno, like the immortal "Stones".

There might be some people who laugh and make fun of bards who go to public places to sing about mighty battles, fallen heroes and great deeds.

Yet, those people should be ignored, as they are missing so much.

They have no sense for music, for stories being told in a song, for legends being kept alive by a bard who wrote lyrics about them.

And they either are too stupid, or too ignorant to realize that once they pass on to another world, they will quickly be forgotten about, as no one will spread their story, be it in a book or in a song.

You should not be ashamed if you enjoy writing books or songs. Ignore the weak-minded who make fun of you. It is your life, and if you enjoy telling stories, don't let anyone keep you

from doing so.
Ignore those who only
laugh, as they actually
deserve pity, as they are
not able to sense the
impact, beauty and
dedication of a
well-written book, or a
pretty melody accompanied
by thoughtful lyrics.
They have forgotten that
there is more to
existence than material
possessions, competing for
the title of the best
swordsman, or terrify as
weaker players as humanly
possible.

Have you heard about the
Stranger, who was
summoned by Lord British
to slay Mondain and
shatter the Gem of
Immortality, thereby
saving our world and all
of us ?

Have you heard about
Lord British coming to
our world from a distant
place called "Earth",
meeting Shamino for the
first time ?

Have you heard about the
fool Zog, who almost
destroyed our planet by
casting the Spell of
Armageddon, which he had
learned from the
mysterious Wisps ?

Have you ever heard
the tale of Mariah and
the Demon, the story of
Geoffrey and the Dragon
?

There is so much we can
learn from all those
stories, even if it only
that some forces we
should not dabble with, or
we will destroy our very
world, as taught by the
example of Zog.

And the being I just
mentioned will forever be
remembered for their
deeds, just like they have
been remembered for so

many years, because some
people wrote down their
story, or wrote a ballad
about them, or copied an
ancient parchment,
thereby making sure that
their tale would not be
lost.

And you don't have to be
Mariah or Geoffrey or
the Stranger to be
remembered. Many of us
accomplish wonderful
things, making our world
a more wonderful place.
And that deserves to be
remembered as well... but
it only will be if
something writes it down,
whether it's a book or a
song.

Also, we have many
masters of both crafts
and combat skills and
arcane arts.

They can help their heirs
very much by writing
down their experiences,
documenting their way to
becoming a master.

This can help a young
warrior, mage, crafter to
achieve their goals a tiny
bit easier in the future.

And it doesn't take a
lot... just a blank book, a
feather, and a red leaf.

So start today, and write
down whatever you like to
share. Make people
remember you, and enrich
the lore of our world
with your tales.

Therin Telamon